United Nations A/70/979–S/2016/597

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
12 July 2016
English
Original: Spanish

General Assembly
Seventieth session
Agenda item 120
Revitalization of the work of the General Assembly

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Letter dated 7 July 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit the note, dated 7 July 2016, signed by the President of the Republic of Costa Rica, Luis Guillermo Solís Rivera, submitting the official candidacy of Ms. Christiana Figueres for the position of Secretary-General of the United Nations, together with supporting documentation: Ms. Figueres's biography and vision statement (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 120, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Juan Carlos Mendoza-García
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 7 July 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

Letter dated 7 July 2016 from the President of the Republic of Costa Rica addressed to the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to address you in connection with Article 97 of the Charter of the United Nations and the joint letter dated 15 December 2015 which, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 69/321, started the selection process and invited Member States to nominate female candidates for the position of Secretary-General of the United Nations, and in that regard to nominate Ms. Christiana Figueres.

Committed to the United Nations and to its founding principles, Costa Rica announces the nomination of Ms. Figueres in the conviction that her proven leadership in the multilateral arena, her demonstrated ability to promote and achieve transparent agreements for global governance, and her commitment to the Charter of the United Nations, will bring renewed energy and leadership to the United Nations in addressing the challenges it will face in coming years.

Costa Rica decided to wait until today to present Ms. Figueres's official nomination in order for her to complete the duties related to her post as Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), a position to which she was appointed by H.E. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General, and which she has held since 2010.

Ms. Figueres's biography is attached, together with her vision statement for the United Nations. I should be grateful if you would have these documents circulated to all Member States. Furthermore, I respectfully convey the candidate's interest and willingness to participate in the interactive dialogues with Member States and civil society scheduled to take place in this connection.

(*Signed*) Luis Guillermo **Solís Rivera**
President

Enclosure

Christiana Figueres

Christiana Figueres, born on 7 August 1956 in San José, Costa Rica, was appointed Executive Secretary of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in July 2010. She remained in office for two successful consecutive terms until July 2016.

Assuming this global leadership role just six months after the unsuccessful COP15 in Copenhagen, Ms. Figueres devoted herself for six years to rebuilding the global climate change negotiating process based on trust-building, fairness, transparency, and collaboration, leading to the 2015 Paris Agreement, widely recognized as a historic achievement.

Ms. Figueres's leadership at the head of the UNFCCC secretariat was characterized by:

- A relentless sense of optimism and confidence that by developing a collective will current reality can be transformed. She is widely quoted for her mantra: "Impossible is not a fact, it is an attitude";
- The game-changing recognition that Governments (in particular developing countries) cannot act on climate change exclusively out of a global concern, but can address climate change through an understanding of how national priorities and interests are furthered by climate protection policies and measures;
- Active outreach to key stakeholders beyond national Governments. She recognized early on that addressing climate change is a shared responsibility of all sectors. The unprecedented support shown for Governments during the construction and adoption of the Paris Agreement by subnational authorities and non-government representatives was one of the fundamental factors for success in Paris.

Widely recognized for her six-year effort to construct the necessary collaboration to deliver a global legally binding agreement that had previously seemed impossible, Ms. Figueres has been credited with forging a new brand of collaborative diplomacy.

She began her life of public service as Minister Counsellor at the Embassy of Costa Rica in Bonn, Germany, in 1982. Returning to Costa Rica in 1987, Ms. Figueres was appointed Director of International Cooperation in the Ministry of Planning.

She served as Director of Renewable Energy in the Americas (REIA), today part of the Organization of American States (OAS), and in 1995 founded the Center for Sustainable Development in the Americas (CSDA), a non-profit organization providing capacity-building to all the countries of Latin America. She directed the Center for eight years.

Ms. Figueres has served on the boards of many non-governmental organizations, and as a sustainability adviser to several corporations. She is a widely published author of articles, frequent lecturer, and influential leader in her field.

Awards

- Great Cross of the Order of Merit of Germany
- Officer in the Order of Orange-Nassau of the Netherlands
- Legion of Honour of France
- Grand Medal of the City of Paris
- National Guayacán Medal of Costa Rica
- Ewald von Kleist Award from the Munich Security Conference
- 2015 Medal of Honour from *The Guardian* newspaper
- 2015 Hero of *El Pais* newspaper of Spain
- 2016 British Renewable Energy Judges Award
- 2016 Power with Purpose Award from McKinsey-Devex
- 2016 Joan Bavaria Award from CERES
- 2016 CK Prahalad Award from the Corporate Eco Forum
- *Nature journal of science* listed her first in the 2015 Top 10 list
- *Foreign Policy* magazine recognized her as the 2015 Global Thinker
- *Fortune* magazine listed her number 7 of the World's 50 Greatest Leaders in 2016
- *TIME* magazine listed her in the Top 100 influential leaders of the world in 2016

She has a master's degree in anthropology from the London School of Economics, and a certificate in organizational development from Georgetown University.

Ms. Figueres has received honorary doctorate degrees from the University of Massachusetts, Boston, Concordia University, and Georgetown University.

She is fluent in Spanish, English and German.